**Steps to Increase Petroleum Production**

416. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently taken any steps to increase the petroleum production; if so, the details thereof;

(b) if so, the results achieved;

(c) what was the petroleum production during the last two years and so far during the current year; and

(d) if the production has not gone up, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) and (b) Various steps recently taken to increase indigenous production of crude oil are—

(i) Announcement of the New Exploration Licensing Policy to boost investment in the exploration of hydrocarbons in the country.

(ii) Rectificatory measures for Bombay High and Neelam Oil Fields through aggressive workover job, redistribution of water injection etc.

(iii) 3-D seismic survey for better reservoir delineation.

(iv) Implementation of new scheme for development of Heera Oil Field.

(v) Enhancing exploration of hydrocarbons and reserves through seismic surveys, deep water exploration and exploration in frontier areas.

(vi) Application and optimisation of artificial lift operations.

(vii) Augmentation of power supply in the North Eastern region through installation of gas turbines.

(viii) Drilling of ERD wells and horizontal wells, scale removal treatment jobs and long drift side tracking of wells.

As a result of the various measures taken, the declining trend in crude oil production is expected to be arrested during 1997-98.

(c) The crude oil production during the last two years and during the current year is as under:—

Figs. in MMT)

| | |
|---|---|
| 1995-96 | 35.147 |
| 1996-97 | 32.88 |
| 1997-98 | 8.401 (April—June 1997) |

(d) The crude oil production during April—June, 1997 at 8.4 MMT was 2.8% higher than the production of 8.172 MMT attained during the corresponding period of the previous year.

**New Guidelines for Selection of Dealers and Distributors for Petroleum**

417. SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have introduced new policy guidelines for selection of dealers and distributors for petroleum products;

(b) if so, what are the salient features thereof; and

(c) what are the categories, allowed reservation in dealerships and distributorship for petroleum products with details of percentage for each category?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Salient features of the new policy guidelines are given in the enclosed statement. *(See below)*

(c) Reservation for different sections of the Society effective from marketing plan 1996—98 onwards will be as under:

(i) Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes (SC/ST)— 25%

(ii) Physically Handicapped Persons (PH) — 5%
(iii) Defence personnel (DC) — 8%
(iv) Para-military/police/Govt. personnel (PMP) — 8%
(v) Freedom Fighters(FF) — 2%
(vi) Outstanding Sportspersons (OSP) — 2%
(vii) Open Category (D) — 50%

33% of the dealerships/distributorship in all categories mentioned above will be reserved for women belonging to that category.

Salient features of the new policy guidelines are as under:—

(i) 33% of dealerships/distributorships have been reserved for women in all categories.

(ii) A separate reservation of 8% has been made for Paramilitary/Police/Customs & Central Excise/Government Personnel disabled/incapacitated while in service. Widows/dependents of those who died while in service will also benefit from this reservation.

(iii) The maximum age limit under applicable categories has been increased from 50 years to 60 years.

(iv) The income limit has been raised from Rs. 50,000 per annum to Rs. 2 lacs per annum.

(v) Relationship clause governing multiple dealership has been simplified keeping in view the changing social norms.

(vi) Widows and unmarried women of and above 40 years of age and without earning parents will be entitled to financial assistance as available to SC/ST allottees under Corpus Fund Scheme.

(vii) Oil Companies have been involved in the selection process.

(viii) Selection of dealers/distributors will be made by duly constituted Dealer Selection Boards (DSBs) each consisting of the following:—

(a) A retired High Court Judge Chairman

(b) An Officer not below the rank of Dy. General Manager of the concerned Oil Company. Member

(c) An Officer not below the rank of Dy. General Manager of another Oil Company. Member

(ix) The Selection Board will judge the inter-se suitability of the candidates on the basis of their —

(a) Personality, business ability, salesmanship.

(b) Capability to arrange finance.

(c) Educational qualification and general level of intelligence.

(d) Capability to provide infrastructure and feasibility, and

(e) General assessment.

(x) The new system of selection is expected to ensure faster and fair selection of suitable candidates, transparency in selection, to prevent chances of irregularities and corruption and to economise in expenditure in the selection of dealers and distributors.

**Cess Collected Under OIDB Act, 1974**

418. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 585 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 27th February, 1997 and state:

(a) the funds collected as cess under OIDB Act, 1974 till March, 1997;